

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 167997
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 167997

EXDIS GENEVA FOR USDEL ECOSOC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE

SUBJECT: ERUPTION OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT

REF: STATE 167957

1. WE ARE GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE DETERIORATION OF THE
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SITUATION IN LEBANON. THROUGHOUT THE DAY VIOLENCE HAS
ESCALATED IN BEIRUT WITH TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE AND THERE
SEEMS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT FIRM CEASEFIRE WILL BE ARRANGED
SOON. PHALANGE AND CHAMOUNIST FACILITIES ARE UNDER
HEAVY FIRE, APPARENTLY FROM SYRIAN ADF FORCES. EMBASSY
BEIRUT REPORTS INCIDENT INVOLVING PHALANGE KIDNAPPING OF
FOUR SYRIAN SOLDIERS MAY HAVE TRIGGERED PRESENT WIDESPREAD

VIOLENCE.

2. YESTERDAY EVENING, WE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO SYRIANS AND ISRAELIS TO ASK THEM TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO RESTRAIN THE PARTIES. (REFTEL BEING REPEATED TO YOU) WE ARE TONIGHT ISSUING THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS:

(QUOTE) THE UNITED STATES IS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE TRAGIC LOSS OF LIFE IN THE FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, LEBANON. WE CALL ON ALL TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND TO OBEY THE CALLS FOR CEASE-FIRE. WE HOPE THAT ALL INVOLVED

IN THIS FIGHTING WILL RECOGNIZE THAT INNOCENT LIVES ARE BEING LOST AND THAT FURTHER FIGHTING WILL SERVE NO ONE'S INTERESTS. (END QUOTE)

3. FOR GENEVA AND USUN: WE UNDERSTAND WALDHEIM IS EN ROUTE TO GENEVA. US MISSION GENEVA SHOULD APPRISE SYG OF ABOVE AS SOON AS FEASIBLE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, URGING HIM TO CONSIDER WHAT HE MIGHT DO TO GET FIGHTING STOPPED. USUN SHOULD PASS OUR ASSESSMENT AND OUR INTENTION TO APPROACH WALDHEIM TO MOST SENIOR AVAILABLE UN OFFICIAL IMMEDIATELY.

4. FOR ROME: REQUEST YOU DISCUSS ABOVE WITH HIGHEST APPROPRIATE VATICAN OFFICIAL. VATICAN MIGHT USEFULLY
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MAKE REPRESENTATIONS WITH CHRISTIANS TO URGE THEM PUNCTILIOUSLY TO AVOID PROVOCATION OF SYRIANS.

5. FOR JIDDA: REQUEST YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH FAHD OR SAUD, STRESSING SERIOUSNESS OF PRESENT SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN BEIRUT. PLEASE URGE VIGOROUSLY THAT SAG CONSIDER STEPS IT CAN TAKE IMMEDIATELY TO HALT FIGHTING.

6. FOR PARIS: PLEASE APPROACH QUAI AT WHATEVER LEVEL YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE AND SHARE OUR ASSESSMENT OF SERIOUSNESS OF PRESENT SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND CRITICAL RAMIFICATIONS IF FIGHTING IS NOT SOON BROUGHT TO AN END. NOT ONLY ARE INNOCENT LIVES BEING LOST, BUT CONTINUED FIGHTING CAN ONLY RESULT IN FURTHER DETERIORATION OF LEBANESE CENTRAL AUTHORITY. WE ARE SURE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IS DOING WHAT HE CAN, BUT GOF MAY WISH TO CONSIDER OTHER MEASURES, PERHAPS PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CONCERN. (WE ARE REPEATING LATEST BEIRUT SITREP TO YOU.)

7. FOR KUWAIT: PLEASE CONVEY TO SABAH AL-AHMAD AND/OR PRIME MINISTER OUR ASSESSMENT OF PRESENT BEIRUT FIGHTING. WE HOPE THAT KUWAIT, ESPECIALLY AS IT IS CONTRIBUTOR TO

ADF, WILL WISH WEIGH IN WITH PARTIES TO URGE UTMOST
RESTRAINT.
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